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General and complete disarmament

Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains views of Member States and relevant international organizations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium. The Secretary-General has, to date, received replies from 12 Governments and responses from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme.

* A/69/50.



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I. Introduction

1. In paragraphs 2 and 7 of its resolution 67/36, the General Assembly invited Member States and relevant international organizations, particularly those that had not yet done so, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on this subject to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.
2. On 27 February 2014, a note verbale was sent to Member States requesting them to submit their reports by 30 April 2014. The Office for Disarmament Affairs also submitted a similar request to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
3. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from 12 Governments and from IAEA and UNEP. The replies received are reproduced in sections II and III below, respectively. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[9 May 2014]

The use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium is controversial and the Argentine Republic has not included these items in its stocks, nor does it plan to do so in the future. In the light of the potential dangers to human health and the environment, a moratorium should be declared, applicable in particular to producer and user countries, until independent and conclusive studies can determine whether they constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]
[7 April 2014]

Armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium have been used for a number of years as conventional weapons, mainly owing to their ability to penetrate bunkers and pierce armour on tanks and other vehicles, with often irreversible effects on people and the environment.

The toxic and radioactive load carried by these devices is often spread over an area in the form of low-level radioactive dust, which might lead to an increase in cancer rates in the affected areas.

Their effects are not clear but might be accentuated owing to synergies, as their chemical properties as heavy metals (prolonged presence in the body) compound the lifelong cumulative exposure to radiation (meaning that they would affect those using such weapons in addition to their targets).

Although such armaments and ammunitions are not intended to produce contamination, some scientists and physicians have reported that they leave behind toxicologically and radiologically harmful residues.

Upon impact, the ammunition melts, vaporizes and turns to dust, which penetrates the human body much more easily and results in different types of cancer, in addition to the direct injuries caused by the projectile. Such ammunitions also affect water quality and water supplies if they land in a populated area (in addition to cropland, which is affected for years).

Consequently, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia believes that, given the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, the manufacture and use of such weapons in operations or conflicts should be prohibited, owing to the irreversible harm they cause to the environment and, above all, to people.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[15 April 2014]

The adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/36 by a broad majority shows that the international community is increasingly and legitimately concerned about the effects on human health and the environment of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium.

Independent research and studies carried out among the affected population living in areas near combat zones where depleted uranium has been used, and among the troops involved in military actions in such areas, show that the contamination caused by depleted uranium poisons the environment for thousands of years and leads to an increase in the rate of cancer and other serious diseases in the population, in addition to congenital abnormalities. They have shown that the toxicity of depleted uranium is more dangerous when it is turned into dust, which can be ingested or inhaled. In that form, wind and rain easily transport it and enormously extend contaminated areas.

Data provided to the Secretary-General by countries directly affected by radioactive residues as a result of armed conflicts clearly show that the use of depleted uranium seriously harms human, plant and animal life and the environment in general, and that the radioactive contamination resulting from its use poses a long-term threat.

In the report on the issue which the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, it was mentioned that the United Nations Environment Programme stressed that "major scientific uncertainties persisted regarding the long-term environmental impacts of depleted uranium, particularly with respect to long-term groundwater contamination. Because of those scientific uncertainties, UNEP called for a precautionary approach to the use of depleted uranium, and recommended that action be taken to clean up and decontaminate the polluted sites. It also called for awareness-raising among local populations and future monitoring."

Cuba reiterates its call on States to comply with the UNEP request by taking a precautionary approach to the use of depleted uranium until more light has been shed on the scientific uncertainties surrounding its effects.

Until further research into the effects of depleted uranium yields results, Cuba considers that the General Assembly should continue to request Member States that have used armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium in armed conflict to provide to the competent authorities of the countries affected, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive information about the location of the areas where they were used, and the quantities used, to facilitate the assessment, administration and clearance of the contaminated areas.

Cuba is closely following the review of the latest information in scientific literature on the effects on humans of internal exposure from inhalation or ingestion of uranium to be submitted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation this year. The review should include all effects of uranium on human health.

Cuba recalls that depleted uranium is included in the list of regulated nuclear material, including for its peaceful uses (article XX of the IAEA statute), and that its use in armaments and ammunitions involved in armed conflict is in violation of the requirements established by IAEA concerning its export and transfer. This is because it is "transferred" when it is so used, and without the consent of the "recipient" States.

In practice, depleted uranium is also being used for military purposes by some arms-manufacturing countries, circumventing international regulations, to reduce their physical inventories of unwanted nuclear material.

It is contradictory that, while there are legally binding standards which regulate the use of nuclear material for peaceful purposes, including depleted uranium, there is no limit on the use of depleted uranium in the military sector, especially in cases where this material is used for offensive purposes to strengthen projectiles, bombs and missiles.

In this regard, Cuba reiterates the importance it attaches to the principles of international law, especially the prohibition to employ, in armed conflict, weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. The employment of methods or means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment, as is the case of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, is prohibited.

Cuba advocates compliance by all States with article 51, concerning protection of the civilian population, of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Cuba reiterates that armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium constitute a threat to life and to the environment. Further research into their dangerous effects is necessary.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[14 April 2014]

In 2008, Ecuador became the first country to adopt a constitution enshrining the rights of nature. Paragraph 27 of article 66 establishes the right of the population to live in a healthy environment, which is in keeping with article 14, in which environmental preservation, the conservation of ecosystems, the prevention of environmental damage and the recovery of degraded natural spaces are declared to be matters of public interest. All those tenets are reflected in the development policy known as “living well”, which currently governs the country’s socioeconomic model.

Although the preamble to resolution 67/36 indicates that “studies conducted so far by relevant international organizations have not provided a detailed enough account of the magnitude of the potential long-term effects on human beings and the environment of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium”, Ecuador shares the view of UNEP that the precautionary principle could be applied to matters of disarmament. The precautionary principle is an internationally recognized principle which has been incorporated into the legislation of Ecuador (the Constitution, the Environmental Management Act and its regulations and the Special Regime for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Province of Galapagos) and has guided its environmental foreign policy in recent decades.

Furthermore, the principles governing relations between Ecuador and other States, apart from promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, seek the establishment of a culture of peace and hence condemn the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and weapons used indiscriminately against civilian populations, causing harm in violation of human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Unwavering in its commitment to peace, Ecuador states that it neither produces nor has used armaments or ammunitions containing depleted uranium. However, in order to enhance transparency with regard to the use of this substance in weapons of mass destruction, it believes that an accountability (reporting) mechanism for States that possess such items should be included in existing disarmament instruments. The participation of international organizations would help to guarantee impartial verification and evaluation in affected areas.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[20 March 2014]

Iraq expresses its deep concern over the harmful effects of the use in wars and armed struggles of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, which constitute a danger to human beings and the environment (the air and the soil). It calls on Member States and the relevant international organizations — in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme — and academic research centres to

conduct in-depth scientific studies and research on addressing the effects of uranium on human health and the environment.

Iraq calls on the United Nations, the specialized agencies (IAEA, WHO and UNEP), all States Members of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to adopt a proactive approach towards the danger of the use of depleted uranium in armaments and ammunitions and to condemn such use.

It stresses the importance of implementing the recommendations of IAEA, WHO and UNEP to mitigate the confirmed and potential hazards to human beings and the environment from contamination resulting from the use of depleted uranium.

States that have used armaments and ammunitions of this kind should provide assistance to the national authorities of the affected States and provide them with detailed information about the location of the areas of use and the amounts used, with the objective of facilitating the assessment of such situations and efforts to contain and address them.

Technical assistance should be provided to the affected States and communities, and suitable medical care should be provided to regions and inhabitants that have been exposed to radiation from such armaments.

The national authorities of the affected States should be called on to designate and identify contaminated areas with a view to keeping inhabitants away in order to avoid radiation contamination, and should raise people's awareness of the harmful effects of the use of such armaments and ammunitions through efforts by national and local authorities, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations.

Efforts should be made to draft a binding and verifiable international treaty prohibiting the use, possession, transfer and trafficking of such armaments and ammunitions.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

- Libya welcomes the role being played by the General Assembly, IAEA and UNEP in conducting research on the harmful effects on human beings and the environment of the use of depleted uranium in armaments and ammunitions.
- It stresses the importance of adopting an international instrument, legally binding on all States, to prohibit the use of depleted uranium in conventional ammunitions and armaments. Uranium is highly toxic, both chemically and radiologically, and its use entails health risks. Numerous reports have confirmed the damaging health effects on civilians and soldiers in conflict areas where depleted uranium has been used.
- It also reiterates the conclusions reached in the expert studies carried out by a number of international organizations, including IAEA and UNEP, regarding the need to take precautionary measures to mitigate potential long-term hazards to human beings and the environment. This should be done through radiation surveys and measurements, treatment, and the secure disposal of waste.

- It calls on States that have used depleted uranium in armed conflicts to provide the affected States with detailed information about the areas of use and the amounts used, and to help to address the resulting damage to both human beings and the environment.
- It calls on the United Nations, IAEA, UNEP and WHO to hold an international scientific conference on the potential long-term environmental hazards of the use of depleted uranium, the harm it causes to human beings and the experiences of affected States in detection and treatment procedures.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

[16 May 2014]

This information is submitted to complement the views expressed by Mexico in 2010, contained in document A/65/129.

In the period from April 2010 to March 2012, in coordination with the United States of America, Canada and the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mexico kept the promise it had made at the first Nuclear Security Summit to replace highly enriched uranium fuel with low-enriched uranium fuel in the National Nuclear Research Institute's TRIGA Mark III research reactor, which extended the Mexican reactor's operating life and made it eligible for broader collaboration under IAEA programmes.

With the total conversion of the research reactor, Mexico has contributed to nuclear non-proliferation, to minimizing the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes and to international efforts to secure nuclear materials and installations.

The National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission is the agency responsible for regulating, strictly controlling and authorizing imports and exports of depleted uranium used solely for peaceful purposes, although this is a dual-use material that could be used in both nuclear and conventional applications.

Netherlands

[Original: English]

[5 May 2014]

The Netherlands voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 67/36 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant international organizations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium.

The Netherlands recognizes the need for additional research on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium and appreciates that this issue is being discussed in the forum of the United Nations. However, the reference in the resolution to the "potential" harmful effects of the use of depleted uranium munitions on human health and the environment cannot so far be substantiated by scientific studies conducted by relevant international organizations, such as WHO.

The Dutch armed forces do not use munitions containing depleted uranium. In the context of multinational missions, however, it is not impossible that Dutch service personnel may operate in areas in which munitions containing depleted uranium are being or have been used by allies. The health and well-being of Dutch soldiers deployed on international missions are under the continuous scrutiny of the Government of the Netherlands. Exposure to hazardous materials must be avoided to the greatest possible extent.

Oman

[Original: English]

[29 April 2014]

The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman has the honour to inform the General Assembly that the Government of Oman, owing to the international concern about the adverse effects of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human beings and the environment, is in agreement with the international voices calling for a stop to the production and use of such weapons and for imposing strict restrictions on their possession by States through special treaties similar to those that criminalize the use of internationally prohibited weapons.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 2014]

Armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium are military in nature, and the use of any highly dangerous chemical or radioactive material should be banned. Since the Government of Panama has no army, its security agencies neither possess nor use such items.

Panama has signed the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the resolution of the Human Rights, Justice and Detention Policy Commission of the Latin American Parliament on the prohibition of the use of armaments containing depleted uranium and on their impact on human health and the environment, with a view, inter alia, to a global ban on the use of these armaments.

The Republic of Panama, aware of the need to comply with United Nations initiatives and the objectives set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was adopted in 2000, has incorporated treaties into its legislation to help deal with the challenges presented by the use of depleted uranium by certain States parties. The Republic of Panama will also continue cooperating with the international community in its mission of peace.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]

[5 May 2014]

Depleted uranium, a heavy metal which is slightly radioactive, is used in ammunition. It is a by-product of the uranium enrichment process, whose radiological effects, however, are limited to emission of alpha particles and whose radiation level is just 0.2 per cent of that of uranium-235. In the armaments sector, depleted uranium is used to make defensive armour plate and armour-piercing ammunition, especially the coating of tank-piercing projectiles, as it easily penetrates steel.

In February 2003, the first annual report on the potential effects of depleted uranium on health was issued in response to concerns that North Atlantic Treaty Organization military personnel who had served in the Balkans as part of various national contingents had abnormally high rates of cancer. This, in turn, was attributed to their having allegedly handled ammunition containing depleted uranium or the debris of such ammunition following detonation.

According to the report, the situation presented no abnormalities. In comparison to the general Spanish population, the distribution of cancers was lower than expected, and no significant anomalies were identified in the study on exposure to the heavy metals analysed. The report highlighted the fact that the health surveillance systems for personnel deployed abroad, which had been strengthened in response to the concerns raised, had not detected any particular change in the area of operations that might have had an impact on the health of such personnel.

Spain does not have, nor has it ever had, ammunition containing depleted uranium. The use of this material is not proscribed by any international instrument.

Spanish studies have not been able to demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship between the weak radiation detected in the debris of targets attacked with depleted uranium projectiles and the development of cancer or other diseases in soldiers or civilians. Depleted uranium presents little radiological risk, since its level of radioactivity is lower than the level of natural radioactivity. Depleted uranium is only a radiological hazard when, in its pure form, it remains in contact with the skin for an extended period of time.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]

[30 May 2014]

As armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium have not been used in Ukraine, the country is unable to analyse the effects of such use.

However, low-enriched nuclear fuel (consisting of less than 20 per cent uranium-235) is used, albeit only in the nuclear research reactor at the Nuclear Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. There are plans to use low-enriched nuclear fuel in an electron accelerator-driven subcritical assembly to be put into operation in 2014 at the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, which is a national research facility. The fuel in question is handled in compliance

with existing regulations in Ukraine and international requirements, including those of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

III. Replies received from agencies and organs of the United Nations system

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[16 June 2014]

In 2008, 2010 and 2012, the International Atomic Energy Agency communicated to the Secretary-General information regarding the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium (included in reports A/63/170, A/65/129 and A/67/177). The Agency, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, performed a number of assessments of radiological impacts, subsequent to requests received from States affected by conflicts where depleted-uranium ammunitions were used and residues from such ammunitions remain dispersed in the environment in the form of dispersible material or ammunition fragments.

These assessments were based on in situ environmental sampling campaigns, followed by laboratory analysis of the environmental samples and radiological assessments based on defined radiation exposure scenarios considering the possible public activities in the affected regions (e.g. occupation of contaminated land, uses of the land, water consumption or activities by the population in areas where ammunition fragments can be found). Subsequently, the Agency produced reports summarizing the results of these radiological assessments for the Kuwait and southern Iraq cases in 2003 and 2010, respectively.

The general conclusion outlined in these reports and in other studies in which the Agency participated (for instance, in those related to post-conflict situations in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro) is that the existence of depleted-uranium residues dispersed in the environment, when observed as confined contamination of soils, vegetables, water and surfaces, does not pose a radiological hazard to the local populations. The estimated annual exposures that could arise in the regions where dispersed residues exist would be of the order of a few microsieverts, i.e. well below the annual dose received by the population worldwide owing to naturally occurring sources of radiation, and far below the reference level recommended by IAEA as a radiological criterion for considering the necessity for remedial actions.

However, all studies in which IAEA participated stressed that the presence of large fragments or complete depleted-uranium ammunitions could result in exposures of radiological significance to individuals who are in direct contact with those radioactive materials, for example, if they are collected as souvenirs or when military vehicles which have been hit by depleted-uranium ammunitions are reprocessed for scrap metal. The advice in such cases was to identify and restrict access to the locations where such fragments or complete munitions could be found, which normally are the areas where affected war equipment remains after a conflict has ended and, subsequently, to conduct survey campaigns by the national

authorities and manage the depleted-uranium ammunition residues as low-level radioactive waste.

The Agency provided the results of the studies, including recommendations, to the national authorities in the affected regions that have the competence to carry out further surveys and monitoring activities, where applicable. IAEA stated that the studies dealt exclusively with civilian inhabitants in post-conflict environment and that the results and conclusions were valid at the time that the assessments were carried out.

In summary, according to the studies in which the Agency was involved, the resulting radiological risk to the public and the environment was not significant for the situations where depleted uranium was observed in localized contaminations of the environment with small particles resulting from the use of depleted-uranium ammunitions.

For the situations where fragments or complete depleted-uranium ammunitions were found, there is a potential risk of radiation effects to individuals who get in direct contact with such fragments or ammunitions. This risk can be mitigated with simple countermeasures conducted by national authorities as collection, storage and disposal of such fragments.

Nevertheless, it was also observed that, in a post-conflict environment, the presence of depleted-uranium residues further increases the anxiety of local populations and the results of the radiological evaluations conducted by IAEA, in cooperation with UNEP and WHO, provided the basis for public reassurance in all of the countries concerned.

The Agency has not been involved in any additional studies after those resulting in the 2010 report on radiological conditions at selected areas of southern Iraq with residues of depleted uranium. This is due to the absence of requests from States that may consider themselves affected.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[16 May 2014]

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, as part of its current programme of work, is conducting a comprehensive review of the latest information in scientific literature on the biological effects on humans of internal emitters (tritium and uranium) caused by radiological exposures. The uranium review will cover the effects of natural uranium, enriched uranium and depleted uranium.

Although originally envisaged to be completed in 2014, owing to the extra work resulting from the evaluation of the levels and effects of radiation exposure caused by the nuclear accident after the 2011 great earthquake and tsunami in eastern Japan, the Scientific Committee postponed the discussion of the internal emitters (tritium and uranium) review to July 2014 and, thus, it is only expected to complete it for publication in 2015 at the earliest.



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Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/37. It discusses recent trends in the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Governments on the subject.

* A/69/50.



I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 68/37, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", the Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.¹

2. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Furthermore, in paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

3. On 28 February 2014, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views. At the time of writing, replies had been received from the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Iraq, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Spain and Ukraine. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Further strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship

4. The United Nations continues to take actions to implement the recommendations contained in key documents in the area of disarmament and development, including the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and the 2004 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development.²

5. In recent years, the United Nations has increasingly broadened the scope of disarmament and arms regulation efforts to address the social and economic impact of the use of conventional weapons, their proliferation and accumulation, and the illicit trade in particular in small arms.

6. The landmark Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in April 2013, explicitly acknowledges the interlinkage between development, peace and security and human rights, as well as the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms. The Treaty covers heavy conventional weapons as well as small arms and light weapons. Importantly, ammunition and parts and components of the above-mentioned categories are covered by the Treaty as well. In addition to prohibiting irresponsible arms

¹ See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August-11 September 1987 (A/CONF/130/39)*.

² See A/59/119.

transfers, it has extensive provisions on preventing the diversion of weapons into illicit markets. Once the Arms Trade Treaty enters into force, it will provide a framework for international cooperation and capacity-building regarding the prevention of diversion and questionable transfers, ranging from improved legislation and control procedures, to better stockpile management.

7. In his latest report to the Security Council on the issue of small arms (S/2013/503), the Secretary-General focused on the situation in Africa. In particular, he underlined the increased vulnerability of a range of States in the region as a result of armed conflict, societal upheaval, a lack of governmental control over army and police depots, terrorist activities, trafficking and related organized crime — stressing that activities of armed groups wielding illegal weapons continue to siphon off resources that could otherwise be devoted to sustainable development.

8. In their fight against illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, Member States continue to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.³ The 2012 outcome document of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action⁴ — rich in development-related themes such as sustainable development, international cooperation and assistance — guided States' efforts during the past two years. In 2014, States considered progress made in implementation of the Programme of Action at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, held in New York from 16 to 20 June, with a strong emphasis on assistance and capacity-building.

9. Given the direct impact that armed violence can have on achieving agreed goals pertaining to development, a goal related to peace and security needs to be high on the agenda when looking ahead towards the post-2015 development framework. In this regard, it is significant that the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda identified peace and good governance among the five transformative shifts that need to drive the post-2015 development agenda.⁵

10. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, a voluntary transparency instrument established in 1981, by which Member States exchange information related to their military expenditures. This instrument continues to be of value in providing a basis for discussions on levels of military spending, underscoring the key principle of the Charter of the United Nations of the “least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources”.

11. The United Nations effectively coordinates its activities related to disarmament and arms regulation through various inter-departmental mechanisms, which include in their activities addressing social and economic impacts of such weapons through victim assistance, reintegration and rehabilitation, and by promoting employment. These mechanisms include the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, the United Nations Mine Action Team and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

³ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, New York, 9-20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

⁴ A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I.

⁵ See A/67/890.

III. Information received from Governments

Albania

[Original: English]
[10 May 2014]

The main positive impact of Albania's disarmament efforts over the past years has been mainly on human and environmental security. The reduction of large stockpiles of unstable ammunition as well as of small arms and light weapons has contributed to a consistently decreased number of accidents related to ammunition and small arms and light weapons involving civilians throughout the country.

In addition, as a result of the reduction and destruction of these stockpiles, a considerable number of military storage facilities which used to be overloaded with ammunition, thus representing a threat for the nearby communities and an obstacle for the development of the surrounding area, have been now closed and certified as threat-free. Moreover, the majority of these previous ammunition storages can be now made available for civil use and the support of the development of the respective communities.

Several ammunition and weapons destruction projects have been carried out in the former military factories located in Mjekes, Polican and Gramsh through industrial dismantling methods and with the support of several international donors. The funding support provided through these projects has improved the industrial capacities for these factories and has provided short- to medium-term employment to local people in areas where unemployment rates are quite high.

As a result of the UXO clearance project in the Gerdec area carried out by the Albanian Armed Forces in cooperation with international organizations, the houses, schools and other public institutions that were destroyed during the tragic explosion could be rebuilt and become operative again.

Albania's concentrated disarmament efforts have served also to reconfirm its strong and serious commitment to serve as a peace factor in the region and beyond.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2014]

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to refer to resolution 68/37, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

In this regard, the Argentine Republic has been undergoing a process of profound change in which special emphasis has been placed on the social dimension, but which is part of an overarching agenda of using the exercise of political power as a fundamental tool for implementing real change, with the active engagement of individuals and organizations.

The country now has a political, social and economic agenda that recognizes all Argentines as persons with full legal (human) rights and offers them the prospect of a life of inclusion and social justice; it is a national people's agenda for

increasing production and reducing debt through an active, engaged and dynamic State.

The restoration and expansion of rights, the generation and protection of employment and the development of domestic production are the pillars of this process of change, in which economic policy is inseparable from social policy. Economic growth, together with policy measures for equitable redistribution, have enabled the Argentine State to make progress in strengthening rights for all while seeking to ensure equal opportunity through active policies of social protection and empowerment.

One example of this is the extension of rights through the universalization of the system for the protection of children, adolescents and pregnant women and the system of pensions for older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as social security portability. Measures are also being taken to provide incentives for consumption in the domestic market as a means of boosting demand in order to generate employment; these are fundamental pillars of the Argentine development model.

Against this backdrop, the Argentine Republic's defence policy is based on a model that combines self-reliance with cooperation: it seeks to achieve sufficient self-defence capacity while at the same time engaging in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with a view to contributing to a regional and, where possible, global environment in which mutual trust and transparency set the stage for enhanced protection of national interests and a climate of freedom, peace and justice, thereby strengthening institutions and international law.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2014]

As Chile is not involved in an arms race requiring exceptional outlays, its military expenditure is determined by the proposals put forward and adopted each year under the Public Sector Budget Act. Military expenditure is divided into three categories: personnel, operations and procurement.

In the field of defence, the National Demining Commission appears to be the organization that best embodies the principle set out in resolution 68/37, as its demining operations have made the areas declared free of anti-personnel mines available for a variety of uses. This facilitates the implementation of various activities for the development of communities or settlements, in accordance with the plans adopted by Governments in the region.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 March 2014]

As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/68/119), "progress in disarmament can create a conducive environment for development, and vice versa While arms in themselves may not be the root cause of violence and conflict, their spread and easy

availability, and the increased likelihood of their diversion and misuse, can endanger stability and welfare as well as diminish investors' confidence and lead to social inequality".

Colombia recognizes that the majority of weapon fatalities around the world can be traced to conventional arms, which facilitate the commission of offences and situations of violence associated with phenomena such as the world drug problem, terrorism and transnational organized crime, undermining development and creating humanitarian issues.

Colombia hails the recent adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty as a breakthrough in efforts to control the trade in conventional arms, given that it is the first legally binding instrument to establish common standards for the international transfer of arms of this type.

Bearing in mind the principles on which the Arms Trade Treaty is based, and considering that the past absence of such principles in the international legal order created situations in which legally purchased arms were diverted to the illicit market, to the detriment of many countries around the world, including Colombia, our country signed the Treaty on 24 September 2013.

At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Colombia introduced, along with South Africa and Japan, resolution 68/48, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". The resolution underlines the fact that the illicit trade in and spread of small arms and light weapons have serious humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and pose a threat to international peace, security, stability and development.

It should be noted that in 2008, Colombia endorsed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, expressing the view that armed violence and development are linked in a vicious circle: armed violence entails significant costs to the country and delays its development, while impediments to development and situations of poverty and exclusion are drivers of armed violence.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[3 April 2014]

In today's international system, marked by ever-widening inequalities, the arms race is consuming many of the resources that could and should be used for economic development, poverty and hunger reduction, health care, job creation, education and increased access to clean air and drinking water.

There is an urgent need to implement practical measures to redirect the resources now being used for military purposes towards development activities. While global military expenditure totalled \$1.756 trillion in 2012, or 2.5 per cent of global gross domestic product, more than 842 million people suffer from hunger, according to statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In 2012, worldwide spending on armaments was 340 times the biennial budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The resources now being spent on armaments could be used, for example, to help countries reach the ostensibly unattainable Millennium Development Goals.

For the cost of a single nuclear weapon, medical care could be provided to 36,000 people. Cuba is in favour of the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and calls for significant advances in nuclear disarmament in order to prevent the continued waste of enormous amounts of resources in this area. The resources now being used to build up nuclear arsenals should be used instead for the benefit of humanity and the eradication of poverty.

Cuba urges all countries to contribute effectively to general and complete disarmament under strict international control. In its view, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, was a concrete step forward on the necessary road towards nuclear disarmament.

Resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to development, particularly in the least developed countries, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986.

Cuba reiterates its proposal that half of current military expenditure be allocated to an international United Nations-managed fund established for that purpose. Such a fund should be in a position to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development and help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations should play a central role in highlighting the interrelationship between disarmament and development, primarily in the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The action programme envisages the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures and reallocate those resources for social and economic development in the developing countries, and to review issues related to the conversion of military industry to civilian production.

The Government and people of Cuba are committed to the implementation of that action programme. The country's Revolutionary Armed Forces have placed their military resources and capabilities at the service of Cuba's economic and social development whenever necessary, including military units and camps, military transportation and aircraft, engineering resources, medical services and other logistical resources. Relevant examples include the relocation of the "Granma" Naval Academy so that its former premises could accommodate the Latin American School of Medicine; the provision of military personnel and fumigation equipment for the campaign to eradicate disease vectors; the support provided for food production; and the services offered by military construction companies for the building of schools, canals, reservoirs, roads and natural disaster evacuation routes.

Cuba denounces the fact that a naval base that has been turned into a detention and torture centre is located on a part of Cuban territory that is illegally occupied by the United States of America. The Guantánamo military base must be closed immediately and the territory returned to its rightful owner, the Cuban people, so that it may be used for the implementation of economic and social development projects.

The international community should take practical steps to ensure that the resources now being used for military purposes are reallocated to development activities.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

The Republic of Iraq affirms that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative of both nations and peoples. The Republic of Iraq is convinced that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding international cooperation can contribute to solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to strengthening the culture of peace and disarmament.

International peace and security are fundamental elements in the realization of the right to development. In the final document of its tenth special session, the General Assembly affirmed that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development, and that progress in the former would help greatly in the realization of the latter. Resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and the well-being of all peoples, especially the peoples of developing countries.

The Republic of Iraq affirms the need for a multilateral approach to issues relating to disarmament and development. It believes that the United Nations and the relevant international organizations have a vital role to play in that area.

Iraq believes that economic, social, cultural and technical cooperation among States will help to strengthen the relations among them, ensuring that any problems between them will disappear or will, at least, be capable of resolution by peaceful means. The goals of development and stronger inter-State relations should therefore be considered complementary to the purposes and principles for which international organizations are striving, and will ultimately help to ensure that resources are employed in the service of development instead of being wasted on armaments. This, in turn, would be conducive to regional and international peace and security.

Efforts must be made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by encouraging the international community to adopt and apply unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament measures, which would inevitably contribute to the realization of those Goals. Reallocating some of the resources that are currently being spent on armaments and military forces to development would result in significant progress towards achieving the Goals.

In that regard, the Republic of Iraq reaffirms the position that the resources of developing countries should not be spent on armaments at a time when they are needed for social and economic development. The peaceful settlement of disputes, the spread of peace and democracy, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and an end to the arms race would all help to leverage resources for development.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2014]

Every year, some \$1.739 trillion is spent on conventional and nuclear weapons worldwide. A number of countries doubled their military expenditures in 2013, while keeping their development and disarmament funding unchanged.

Mexico is aware that the objectives of peace and security are closely related to human development and that there is a consequent need for balance between the resources allocated to military expenditure and those allocated to development. It has accordingly implemented the following initiatives:

- “Weapons exchange”: civilians voluntarily surrender their weapons in exchange for a reward (cash, groceries or household appliances). Between 1 January and 31 December 2013, 30,993 firearms, 2,297 grenades and 778,546 cartridges were collected.
- “Arms register”: the aim of this register is to regulate and strictly control these items, in accordance with the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act, and to prevent them from being diverted to the illicit market. Between 1 January and 31 December 2013, 9,474 firearms, 1,203 grenades and 1,292,711 cartridges were registered.
- Pursuant to the National Development Plan 2013-2018, action is being taken to promote development in order to combat and prevent crime and violence.
- Mexico is engaged in all multilateral efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament, reduce worldwide spending on armaments and encourage the channelling of more resources to development, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, it is participating in the design of the new post-2015 development agenda, seeking to ensure that it includes clear and measurable targets.
- In strict compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, Mexico promotes cooperation in activities relating to disarmament and transparency in military expenditures. In this respect, it reports annually on its military expenditure.
- Mexico takes part in international meetings aimed at mitigating the effects of nuclear and conventional weapons, and in meetings on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 May 2014]

Panama has incorporated into its legislation the General Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials Act; the law regulating the procedure for issuing permits to carry firearms; and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. Among other measures, it has implemented an arms-for-food-and-medicine programme since 2010, in order to take illegal small arms and ammunition off the streets.

The Constitution of the Republic of Panama, in its article 312, provides that only the Government may possess weapons; for any other activity, the prior permission of the executive branch is required. The duty to ensure public safety is supported by arms prevention and eradication provisions and controls that have had an effect on the country's development, enabling it to position itself in a clear, coherent manner vis-à-vis the international community.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[14 May 2014]

International instruments

Portugal is party to all relevant disarmament conventions, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention on Landmines) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which establish the obligation of States parties to destroy their existing stockpiles of landmines and cluster munitions, and also to conduct clearance activities in mined areas under their jurisdiction. In fact, the aforementioned weapons gravely hinder the economic and social development of affected communities by preventing access to farmland, pastures, as well as to other vital resources. Portugal is also party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

As one of the coordinators for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Portugal fully engaged, in 2012 and 2013, with all United Nations Member States in order to promote this landmark Convention, which is still the sole multilateral instrument that aims at putting an end to the civilian suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. Portugal has carried out a large number of outreach activities to promote the Convention.

Portugal regrets that the international community has so far been unable to reach consensus on a protocol regarding mines other than anti-personnel landmines in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Mines other than anti-personnel landmines, by blocking roads and general access to and from certain areas, prevent effective humanitarian action on the ground. Furthermore, mines other than anti-personnel landmines may lead to the isolation of populations, hampering the development of State infrastructures in the affected regions and thus undermining State authority.

Assistance

In 2012, Portugal continued its cooperation with Mozambique regarding landmine clearance and disposal, namely by granting access to maps and relevant cartography, of which copies were made available to the authorities of Mozambique.

In this context, a delegation of Mozambique from the National Demining Institute visited the archives of the Portuguese Ministry of National Defence, as well as the Tropical Research Institute, a research and development public institution which holds a vast cartographic archive (Overseas Historical Archive).

In June 2014, Portugal participated in the Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention on Landmines that was held in Maputo, Mozambique, and was invited to be a Friend of the Presidency. In this capacity, Portugal was requested to provide some contributions and sent some materials in the area of logistics support (informatics). On the other hand, Portugal is developing a project for assistance to Mozambique in the area of risk education, in cooperation with the Mozambique authorities.

Furthermore, in the past, Portugal has also provided technical assistance in the field of mine detection and clearance, in the framework of the Multinational Military Implementation Force in Bosnia and the International Security Force in Kosovo and training in demining activities in Guinea-Bissau, and between 2007 and 2013, Portugal invested a total sum of €23,635 in anti-personnel mine clearance projects in Angola and other developing countries.

Portugal is also involved in the mine action project in Libya with its 5+5 initiative partners.

Portugal can provide assistance upon request and depending on the availability of adequate funding. The Portuguese Armed Forces' experts are qualified in mine detection and clearance. The equipment used in mine detection and clearance includes electronic search means, EOD/IEDD operator suits, EOD/IEDD X-ray (real time), DEARMER, mechanical devices, handheld metal and multi-sensor systems.

Portugal signed a country programme framework with the International Atomic Energy Agency in which cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries is included as a development cooperation measure regarding non-proliferation and disarmament.

On different occasions, Portugal has raised through bilateral contacts the issue of disarmament as an element that should be taken into account in development strategies.

National implementation

Portugal adopted, in 2009, the "National Strategy for Security and Development". This Strategy focuses on coherence and efficiency, and ensures better coordination of all Portuguese programmes. The Strategy also promotes a broader approach and reinforces the priority of human security as a major goal in the Portuguese cooperation policy.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

[25 April 2014]

The State of Qatar has acceded to all the treaties on weapons of mass destruction. Periodically, through the Doha Regional Centre for Training on Conventions Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction, it holds meetings and workshops at all levels to spread awareness of the danger of weapons of mass destruction. The State of Qatar possesses only conventional weapons, and only to the extent that they are necessary for its security in the light of circumstances in the surrounding region. Weapons expenditures represent only a small portion of the public budget. Qatar focuses on enhancing all areas that can benefit its citizens, including health, education, culture and development projects to serve future generations. Development and infrastructure projects of all types receive due care and attention.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]

[1 May 2014]

Spain fully acknowledges the need to take effective action linking disarmament and development, to ensure that measures in these two areas are carried out in parallel but with mutually reinforcing effects.

Spain has historically reaffirmed its strong commitment to disarmament and development by adopting legislative and operational measures and promoting active disarmament and development policies in other parts of the world.

Domestically, Spain has one of the world's most advanced pieces of legislation in the field of disarmament, which exceeds the requirements set out in the international treaties and commitments by which Spain is bound.

Internationally, Spain has been doing its utmost to help in an efficient and coordinated manner to address the challenge posed by critical development issues in relation to the adoption of disarmament measures. This approach is reflected clearly in Spain's position on cooperation with regard to non-proliferation and disarmament concerning weapons of mass destruction, the prohibition and total elimination of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other weapons with similar effects.

Apart from these initiatives, and strictly in line with its development assistance policy, Spain continues to promote humanitarian mine clearance efforts and multilateral actions to develop technologies for the location, deactivation and destruction of mines currently deployed in other countries. It also continues to provide support and assistance for the training of experts in demining, through the International Demining Centre and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization centre of excellence in Spain.

In addition, in order to control arms trafficking, Spain has created a safeguard system whereby the Interministerial Regulatory Board for External Trade in Defence-related and Dual-use Materials conducts compulsory and binding reviews of applications for administrative authorization to trade in defence-related and dual-use materials.

Lastly, with regard to its foreign operations, Spain devotes significant military resources, both human and technical, to the conduct of disarmament, peacekeeping and assistance missions throughout the world.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]

[15 May 2014]

As a non-nuclear-weapon State, Ukraine has continued to consistently advocate the further strengthening of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly through the United Nations. Ukraine firmly believes that the United Nations has a central role to play in collective efforts to maintain peace, ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and tackle new threats and challenges.

Ukraine fully shares the universal conviction on which General Assembly resolution 68/37 is based: that international cooperation and joint efforts to make further progress in respect of disarmament and arms limitation should further the goals of economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries.

Regarding Ukraine's national experience in implementing the above-mentioned resolution, it should be noted that, under the country's 2014 State Budget Act, 50 per cent of the resources derived from the disposal of surplus armaments and military and specialized technology of the armed forces is to be allocated to the general fund of the State budget, while the other 50 per cent is to be allocated to the special fund of the Ministry of Defence to address social issues regarding the implementation of the comprehensive State programme to provide housing for members of the Ukrainian armed forces and their families.

Between January and April 2014, the special fund of the Ministry of Defence to finance the construction or purchase of housing for members of the Ukrainian armed forces received 24.9 million hryvnias from the disposal of surplus armaments and military and specialized technology of the armed forces.

With respect to past experience, it may be noted that as early as 1994, under the trilateral arrangements agreed upon among Ukraine, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, this last country undertook to provide Ukraine with fuel assemblies in connection with the removal of strategic nuclear warheads from Ukrainian territory. Under the arrangements concluded in this regard, it was agreed that, with a view to ensuring nuclear and environmental safety, the parties would cooperate in servicing and eliminating the nuclear warheads located in Ukrainian territory until the last such warhead had been removed.

Moreover, in addition to those arrangements, agreement was reached on two important issues: the time frame for the removal of all nuclear warheads from Ukrainian territory, and mechanisms for providing compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons that were removed. In particular, the parties undertook to complete the process of removing strategic nuclear warheads from Ukraine by June 1996. Article 2 of the annex to the agreement indicated that the Russian Federation would write off part of the public debt of Ukraine, amounting to \$400-520 million, in connection with the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory in 1991 and 1992.



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Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

State of South-South cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/230, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-ninth session a report on the state of South-South cooperation, focusing on how the United Nations development system can improve its support to South-South cooperation and on the implementation of that resolution. Strengthened South-South relations have led many United Nations organizations and agencies, including regional commissions, to incorporate South-South cooperation into their strategic plans and performance indicators. The report contains recommendations on improving the system-wide governance, focus, coherence and coordination of South-South cooperation, in order to maximize its development impact.



I. Introduction

1. In 2012, developing countries accounted for nearly half of world gross domestic product; by 2020, just three of them — Brazil, China and India — are projected to account for more world output than Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America combined. By 2025, the South is likely to account for 600 million households with incomes of over \$20,000 and an overall annual consumption of \$30 trillion. All regions of the South have experienced growth and they have done so during the most severe recession in the North since the Great Depression. Those unprecedented achievements and prospects, in combination with the rapid spread of electronic connectivity across the South, point to a new strength and effectiveness for South-South cooperation.

2. South-South development cooperation has become a central factor in international relations. It underpins the growing trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows among developing countries that have been transforming the world economy. Since the period 2008-2009, developing countries have exported more to one another than to developed countries and, since 2011, their total trade has been over \$4 trillion.¹ Investment flows to developing economies, much of it originating from the South, reached a new high of \$759 billion in 2013, accounting for 52 per cent of global FDI inflows; developing Asia is now the recipient of the most FDI in the world.²

3. In 2011, the value of South-South cooperation was estimated at between \$16.1 billion and \$19 billion (E/2014/77, para. 44). The real value is surely higher, not only because much South-South development cooperation is unreported but also because it takes many forms, some of which are hard to quantify. Driven by official as well as private initiatives, it involves a wide diversity of partners, ranging from Governments and international agencies to corporations, civil society organizations and networks acting to protect the disempowered, including women, children and slum dwellers. Infrastructure projects account for an estimated 55 per cent of South-South cooperation and over a third of such cooperation supports social sectors (ibid., para. 46).

4. South-South cooperation is facing a paradigm shift that is driven not only by the increased importance of developing countries to the world economy but also by global demographic and other trends, including the new social connectivity brought about by information and communications technologies, the expanding middle class and rapid urbanization, against the backdrop of the adverse impact that violent conflict and criminality have on development. All those factors define the need for and role of South-South cooperation in the post-2015 development agenda, which is aimed at the elimination of poverty and the fostering of environmentally sustainable growth. Those imperatives are tightly interrelated and demand an integrated, strengthened response from the United Nations system.

5. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have moved to strengthen their own capacities to support South-South cooperation and to mainstream it in their policies, strategies and programmes. However, they also need improved

¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *South-South Trade Monitor*, No. 2 (Geneva, July 2013).

² UNCTAD, *Global Investment Trends Monitor*, No. 15 (Geneva, 28 January 2014).

coordination and greater financial support, which must come from both traditional sources and new public and private actors.

6. In that context, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation was upgraded to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in 2013; its head was made Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation in May 2014. Recommendations on how the Office can be further strengthened in order to achieve its potential were set out in the Secretary-General's report on the subject (SSC/18/3); the report also referred to the commitment of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue hosting the Office.

II. Purpose of strengthening United Nations system support for South-South cooperation

7. Support for South-South cooperation by the United Nations system responds to a wide range of needs expressed by Member States in various intergovernmental decisions and resolutions. The principles and agenda of such cooperation have to be set by countries of the South (see resolution 64/222, annex, para. 11). In particular, Member States have requested the United Nations system to help developing countries establish or strengthen South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence, and to enhance closer cooperation among such centres, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, exchanges of information and best practices, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues or concerns.³

8. In the years following the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, expressions of commitment to South-South cooperation have come from an increasing number of stakeholders, for example during recent sessions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and other intergovernmental processes.

9. The Group of 77 and China has continued to articulate the common positions of the South in major multilateral conferences and processes dealing with an array of socioeconomic matters. At its 2013 ministerial meeting, it reaffirmed the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. At the meeting of the High-level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South held in Fiji in May 2013, recommendations were made on the future landscape of South-South cooperation as an important contribution to the Development Platform for the South. Furthermore, at the Group of 77 and China summit held in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in June 2014, the Group expressed a strong commitment to working collectively to reduce poverty and inequality, fostering sustainable development, protecting sovereignty over natural resources and promoting fair trade while reiterating the importance of South-South cooperation in such development efforts.

³ As noted in the note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3), those requests are reiterated in many United Nations decisions and resolutions, including the Nairobi outcome document (resolution 64/222, annex).

10. In addition to efforts to bolster the voice of the South in global governance systems and processes, collaborative frameworks led by countries such as Brazil, China and India are at the heart of the implementation of various South-South programmes in areas such as infrastructure development, agriculture, education, food, the transfer of technology, security and many other sectors at the national and regional levels that are critical for the realization of national and internationally agreed development goals in the South. (For additional information on recent South-South initiatives, see SSC/18/1.)

11. For its part, the United Nations system recognizes the opportunity to leverage the growing commitment to South-South cooperation for development purposes. Evaluation findings also indicate that the United Nations system is well positioned to help strengthen collaborative relations among developing countries, owing to its convening power, global reach, country presence, technical expertise and impartiality.

III. State of United Nations support to South-South cooperation

A. Policy frameworks and strategies

12. The United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires in 1978 provided the first strategic aims and global framework for South-South cooperation. In recent years, United Nations support to South-South cooperation has been guided mainly by the following: (a) the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation; (b) the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit following its 2011 review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2011/3); (c) the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation; and (d) General Assembly resolution 67/226, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

13. A survey of United Nations organizations, funds and programmes conducted recently by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation found that many of them are implementing the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation and that they are also responding to key recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. The framework sets out comprehensive parameters on how to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and programmes of the United Nations system at all levels, as called for in the Nairobi outcome document and relevant decisions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and resolutions of the General Assembly.

14. The above-mentioned Joint Inspection Unit review, which led to the formulation of the framework of operational guidelines, concluded that in order for South-South and triangular cooperation to have their intended impact, improvements were needed to the overall system-wide policy frameworks, governance, coordination, structures, mechanisms and dedicated resources. Some specific actions recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit to help bolster the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in United Nations policies and programmes were: (a) working with a common definition; (b) setting up intra-agency support

structures, such as a dedicated South-South and triangular cooperation unit in each agency and focal points at all levels; (c) systematically applying guidelines and guidance; (d) systematically using reporting mechanisms; (e) ensuring, where appropriate, adequate funding from agency budgets; (f) taking effective action at the regional level; (g) matching resources to the United Nations mandates regarding South-South cooperation; (h) developing a coherent strategy for triangular cooperation; and (i) strengthening coordination at the regional and country levels.

15. Support of the United Nations system to South-South cooperation is partly discernible in the status of its actions in response to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. Recommendations 1 and 2 were implemented at the time of formulating the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, which included definitions of South-South and triangular cooperation. The establishment of the structures, mechanisms and focal points called for in recommendation 3 is among the Secretary-General's proposed measures for strengthening inter-agency coordination of South-South cooperation, and the new commitments to implement them are outlined in paragraph 60 below.

16. The need to improve the inclusiveness and working arrangements of the High-level Committee and its secretariat, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, was underscored in recommendation 4. The Secretary-General proposed ways to strengthen the Office in his report on the subject (SSC/18/3); however, actions to improve the inclusiveness and workings of the Committee will require changes to the Committee rules of procedure by the Committee itself. Recommendation 5, on the need for the Office to continue fulfilling its mandate, is being implemented through the Office's strategic framework for the period 2014-2017. Recommendation 6, on the relocation of staff of the Office in UNDP regional centres to the regional commissions, was not implemented. In a related note to the General Assembly (A/66/717/Add.1), the Secretary-General observed that such a relocation would deprive UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation of the human resources that they need in order to provide more direct support to South-South regional initiatives, as called for in the Nairobi outcome document.

17. Recommendation 7, concerning the need for the High-level Committee to clarify the reporting lines of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as a separate entity within UNDP and on effecting the closer integration of the Office into the UNDP structure, has been largely addressed through the measures proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on how to further strengthen the Office. Evidence suggests that recommendation 8, on the Economic and Social Council requesting the regional commissions to set up strategies and structures and to mobilize resources to advance subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation, is gradually being implemented.

18. With regard to recommendation 9 (that United Nations organizations and agencies should allocate no less than 0.5 per cent of their core budgets to the promotion of South-South cooperation), the consensus among agencies was that more than 0.5 per cent of their technical cooperation funds was apportioned to regional programmes that are expected to cover South-South cooperation to a large extent. Recommendation 10, concerning strategies and funding mechanisms to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, is being implemented through the

strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. In keeping with recommendation 11, many agencies are establishing mechanisms to monitor, evaluate and report on their South-South cooperation activities. The measures to include South-South cooperation in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks are outlined in the framework of operational guidelines and those to include South-South cooperation in the agendas of various coordination mechanisms at all levels, in accordance with recommendation 12, are highlighted in the present report, in response to the recommendations recently put forward by the Secretary-General in his report on measures to further strengthen the Office.

19. In its resolution 67/226, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the General Assembly called on the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation and to strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels. It also requested the United Nations development system to intensify its information-sharing and reporting on and evaluation of support to and results achieved through South-South and triangular cooperation. United Nations organizations and agencies are actively implementing elements of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review relating to South-South and triangular cooperation. Many, including UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), have integrated South-South cooperation into their strategic plans. Further information on the resulting implementation efforts is provided below.

B. Nature of United Nations system support to South-South cooperation

20. United Nations system support to South-South cooperation is most easily described in terms of the thematic focus of each entity, but to see its interconnected nature, a better perspective is that of key functions, such as policy development and dialogue, research and analysis, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, partnerships and financing and monitoring and evaluation, in keeping with the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation and the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. All United Nations system entities undertake those functions to some degree; significant and illustrative examples are provided below.

Policy development and dialogue

21. A number of entities in the United Nations system contribute to the shaping of national, regional or international policies and strategies for South-South cooperation; not all engage in policy dialogue with Governments. Among those that do, UNDP plays a leading role, as host of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, which serves as the secretariat of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the primary policymaking entity on South-South cooperation in the United Nations system. With UNDP support that includes meeting staff costs, the Office prepares numerous reports that inform the deliberations and policy guidance provided to the United Nations system on South-South and triangular cooperation by the High-level Committee and the General Assembly.

22. UNDP, which has placed South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation at the core of its strategic plan for the period 2014-2017, has global policy centres in

Brazil, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Turkey to facilitate South-South policy coordination and other interactions, as well as initiatives under seven strategic partnership agreements (with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey). UNDP, in partnership with Turkey, promoted policy dialogue by organizing a multi-stakeholder conference on international development cooperation, which was held in Istanbul on 19 and 20 June 2014, to examine, among other issues, the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in accelerating development progress and improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world. At another UNDP-supported conference, held in Beijing, representatives of 11 middle-income countries⁴ shared their experiences of planning and implementing development cooperation. A follow-up proposal aims to create a network of Southern think tanks.

23. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promotes a continuing dialogue process, with the strategic aims of ending hunger, improving food security and advancing the sustainable use of new technologies. It does so through a number of initiatives that seek to influence policymakers, spread knowledge and provide technical expertise. In the review period, an important policy-related initiative was the interregional meeting held in Addis Ababa from 29 June to 1 July 2013 on the Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Jointly organized with the African Union and the Lula Institute of Brazil, participants discussed best practices in Africa, Asia and Latin America and adopted a declaration and a roadmap for partnership-building, South-South cooperation and resource mobilization. An FAO workshop held in Urumqi, China, from 4 to 8 June 2012 sought to promote regional cooperation for responsible aquaculture and fisheries development in the Central Asian and Caucasian countries.

24. International Labour Organization (ILO) involvement in South-South cooperation policy dialogue is shaped by its Decent Work Agenda, in the context of sustainable development. A characteristic activity was the International Research Conference on Assessing Green Jobs for Evidence-Based Policymaking held at ILO headquarters in Geneva on 9 and 10 December 2013. Participants considered recent national green jobs assessments and discussed how to improve the capacity of national partners to promote South-South and triangular cooperation on formulating relevant evidence-based policies. Among the participants were researchers from developing countries who had been provided with ILO scholarships that covered the costs of attendance.

25. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been involved in policy dialogues through two significant events. One was the session on "South-South industrial cooperation: the role of southern enterprises in least developed countries" held during the Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference in Lima on 30 November and 1 December 2013. At that event, the need for further research on the topic and the role of Southern enterprises, as the backbone of and main actors in a large share of South-South economic cooperation and development outcomes, were emphasized. The other was a side event on South-South industrial cooperation for African industrialization at a meeting of the

⁴ Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Qatar, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

Conference of African Ministers of Industry. The role of South-South industrial cooperation as an important element in African industrialization was stressed in the ministerial declaration adopted at the conclusion of the conference.

26. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with its technical focus as overseer of the international patent regime, has been induced to engage in South-South cooperation by the impact of rapid technological change that has made patent law increasingly relevant to development. During the period under review, WIPO, in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, convened the first interregional meeting on South-South cooperation on intellectual property governance issues; the second interregional meeting was organized in cooperation with the Government of Egypt. At those meetings, participants from 32 developing countries from all around the world discussed a wide range of intellectual property issues with representatives of developed countries, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society. A particular focus was placed on how to strengthen the institutional structure for South-South cooperation within WIPO and how to foster networking and matchmaking between developed countries and the least developed countries on particular intellectual property issues.

27. Much of the work of UNEP aims at raising awareness of and developing policy responses to the multiple threats facing the global ecosystem centres on regional realities, and therefore has a South-South focus. That is especially true for protecting regional seas and combating desertification. A particularly notable achievement was the four-year effort that resulted in the adoption of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

28. In 2013, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported the Government of Sri Lanka in hosting a regional dialogue in Sri Lanka, at which minimum terms for a standardized employment contract for migrant domestic workers were discussed. The meeting built on earlier dialogue that took place during a workshop at the meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in 2012. Participants reviewed and made recommendations for a draft standardized contract for women migrant domestic workers. Those recommendations have contributed to the successful development of a memorandum of understanding between India and Saudi Arabia, which better secures the rights of women migrant workers, specifically domestic workers.

Research and analysis

29. The research findings and related analytical work of the United Nations system are critically important, as they contribute to government policies. They will also play a key part in shaping the role of South-South cooperation in the formulation and implementation of the transformative post-2015 development agenda.

30. The phenomenal rise of the South and the surge in South-South cooperation were the subjects of rigorous research and analysis in the UNDP *Human Development Report 2013*, in which the shifts in global economic relations and their implications for human development were examined. Similar analysis was also conducted by the United Nations system task team on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda for its report *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development 2013*. Other recent policy studies by UNDP covering, among others things, green

jobs, illicit financial flows and development financing address important issues relating to South-South cooperation. Support by UNDP has also enabled the continued publication of the *Sharing Innovative Experiences* series by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the publication of *Creative Economy Report 2013* and issues of *Southern Innovator* magazine.

31. The periodic analytical reports of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have been a primary guide for policymakers in developing countries, especially with regard to regional and thematic trends that define South-South issues. Two recent examples illustrate that role: in the 2013 edition of its flagship publication *Trade and Development Report*, UNCTAD made the case that South-South trade has a major role in resetting unsustainable patterns of global production and consumption, and in *Trade and Environment Review 2013*, UNCTAD urged a global shift towards small-scale organic agriculture. UNCTAD reports on the least developed and landlocked developing countries have shaped their long-term plans of action, and its monitoring of African issues has been a key contribution to regional policy. The recommendations for policymakers set forth in *Economic Development in Africa Report 2013: Intra-African Trade Unlocking Private Sector Dynamism* contributed to the African Union action plan to boost intra-African trade, which currently lags behind that of other regions. Through its annual report *South-South Trade Monitor*, UNCTAD provides more robust data and analysis on trends in South-South trade flows.

32. Most of the research activities of specialized agencies are built into their partnership networks. This is the case with the World Health Organization, which has always worked through a network of collaborating institutions (now over 800) to monitor and share information on health threats. UNEP is another hub for networked research that has made an invaluable contribution. An example of its cutting-edge research is the report *South-South Trade in Renewable Energy: A Trade Flow Analysis of Selected Environmental Goods*. Released at the first United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014, the report not only places a key issue in sustainable development — the use of renewable energy — in the context of increasing South-South trade but also underlines its impact on inclusive growth and job creation. As developing countries take advantage of decreasing technology prices, especially in the use of solar energy, trade among them in renewable energy goods and services is growing faster than global and North-South trade. Also in the report is information on other small and dynamic emerging markets in water treatment equipment and water supply, the market for which is valued at \$50 billion globally. Notably, the report calls for increased South-South cooperation, especially at the interregional level, on producing low-cost environmental goods. That will need supportive trade policies and training programmes to create the necessary skilled labour force.

33. The regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council are important fonts of research on the socioeconomic issues facing their member States, as discussed in subsection C below.

Knowledge-sharing

34. The ILO Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training is a knowledge hub intended to improve regional labour conditions and combat abuses such as child labour; it is now a predominantly South-South

e-platform with a global reach. UNEP, with its South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism, an e-platform to share knowledge, best practices, information and news that was launched in 2012, is bringing South-South cooperation into the information age.

35. Since 2010, the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa, has been implementing a programme to develop and strengthen the national systems on tourism statistics for the 14 member States of the regional organization. A reliable and efficient system of tourism and tourism-related statistics is fundamental when establishing the research-based policies, planning, marketing and promotion needed for a competitive and sustainable tourism industry. The objective of the project is to assess the tourism statistical systems of the member States of the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa and to bring the systems in line with international best practices. The project also enables the member States to conduct joint planning and to promote their tourism industries through strengthened regional collaboration.

36. Recognition of the difficulties of establishing and maintaining a web-based knowledge hub led Indonesia, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNDP and the World Bank, to organize a high-level meeting of practitioners that was held in 2012. Over 300 participants from 46 countries met in Bali, and many remained in contact through a World Bank-hosted community of practice that has some 250 members and an e-mail distribution list of over 1,000. A second high-level meeting on knowledge hubs was held in June 2014 in the Republic of Korea. The World Bank South-South Experience Exchange Facility has been funding specific knowledge-sharing initiatives among low-income countries. It has also published case studies highlighting drivers of success in knowledge-sharing.⁵

37. UNDP has declared its commitment to becoming a knowledge broker, through helping to identify, share and adapt scalable and tested Southern solutions. Teamworks, a UNDP online platform, facilitates numerous e-discussions and includes South-South exchanges of knowledge and experience on a wide range of topics among staff across the world. The UNDP-supported Caribbean Risk Management Initiative facilitates knowledge-sharing between small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region with regard to the management and mitigation of climate-related risks, including hurricanes and rising sea levels. At the UNDP-supported China-Africa Poverty Reduction and Development Conference, held in Hangzhou, China, in July 2013, the issue of what small and medium-sized enterprises could do to create youth employment was considered. That organizational culture of knowledge-sharing has laid the ground for UNDP to better serve as a knowledge broker for South-South cooperation.

Capacity development

38. The primary focus of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in 1978, was on building the institutional capacity of developing countries to

⁵ Shobha Kumar and Aaron Leonard, *The Art of Knowledge Exchange: A Results-Focused Planning Guide for Development Practitioners* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2011).

strengthen national and collective self-reliance, and the United Nations system has been an essential source of support in that effort.

39. Numerous UNDP initiatives offer practical capacity-development support to countries, for example by promoting the capacity of the least developed countries to engage in trade, attract investment and participate in production networks and value chains serving growing markets throughout the global South. During a side event at the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council held in New York on 5 and 6 July 2012, and more recently at the conference on international development cooperation supported by UNDP and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, heads of development agencies discussed their capacity-development needs, which are often met through UNDP support for institution-building in the South.

40. Among other notable initiatives is the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation in Malaysia, which is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and focuses on capacity-building in developing countries in three critical and interrelated areas, namely the discovery of new knowledge (science), its application (technology) and its uses (innovation). The Centre is part of a UNESCO network working on the global priorities of the agency and has become a key player in helping to mobilize intellectual resources and highlight best practices in the South. Its work continually opens up further opportunities for South-South cooperation and greater empowerment of the South as a whole. UNIDO South-South cooperation capacity-building initiatives include two operational centres in China and India that disseminate clean technologies for green industry.

41. In November 2011, an innovative partnership between WFP and the Government of Brazil established the WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence against Hunger. It was created to strengthen national capacities and knowledge in Africa, Asia and Latin America to design and implement nationally owned, sustainable school-feeding and other anti-hunger programmes as part of the broader social policy context. WFP is currently exploring the establishment of new centres for the same purpose.

Partnerships and innovative financing

42. Organizations of the United Nations system have formed various partnerships and have established financing mechanisms that have brought many dividends. During the period 2012-2014, FAO has engaged in ongoing interaction with some 50 Southern partners through its Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Its new South-South cooperation strategy envisions strengthened and broadened partnerships that include triangular arrangements with Governments, research institutions, civil society and the private sector. One example is the FAO collaboration with the Coalition for African Rice Development and the Japan International Cooperation Agency to direct research at universities and specialized institutions in Africa and Asia.

43. A number of the partnership agreements involve provider countries establishing trust funds with FAO. Under a broad trust fund framework agreement with China, five of its agricultural institutes will work with African partners to scale up the impact of South-South cooperation on food security and nutrition; assure quality production of veterinary vaccines; strengthen networking between

agricultural research and training centres in China and Africa; develop aquaculture; and increase the production and use of renewable energy. Other trust fund agreements are with Angola, Chad and Nigeria to provide financial resources to secure Brazilian, Vietnamese and Chinese expertise, respectively. A trust fund agreement with Angola and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation supports FAO services for agricultural research rehabilitation and development. Under a cooperation agreement with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, FAO directs South-South cooperation in the fields of safety, nutrition and food sovereignty and poverty reduction in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

44. WIPO has developed a number of innovative and inclusive partnerships over the years to promote access to knowledge and technology and it will strive to build upon them to further promote South-South cooperation and partnerships in the field of intellectual property. Such initiatives include WIPO GREEN, an interactive online marketplace that promotes innovation and the diffusion of green technologies by connecting a wide range of players — including partners from the South — in the green technology innovation value chain; WIPO Re:Search, an online platform providing access to intellectual property for pharmaceutical compounds, technologies, know-how and data that are available for research and development related to neglected tropical diseases; the Access to Research for Development and Innovation and Access to Specialized Patent Information public-private partnerships, which were developed to facilitate free or low-cost access to research for development and innovation, and to specialized patent information for developing countries, respectively; and the multi-stakeholder Vision IP platform developed to facilitate access to information and cultural content for visually impaired persons.

45. The UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation on the Environment is a three-party partnership and cooperation initiative led and supported by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and Chinese scientific research institutes, with facilitation from UNEP. The partnership provides technical support to African countries to scale up a number of solutions that have proven successful in China, such as dry land agriculture and water treatment. UNEP is involved in numerous similar partnerships, including the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, the Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability and the Global Adaptation Network.

46. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between ILO and United Cities and Local Governments, action to advance the Decent Work Agenda at the local level through a local economic development approach has been supported. In 2013, ILO and United Cities and Local Governments carried out activities aimed at developing South-South and city-to-city cooperation to reinforce the capacities and business skills of market vendors from Maputo and Durban, South Africa. South-South and triangular cooperation have been recognized as important modalities of the development of city-to-city cooperation, especially in the area of local economic development.

47. Consistent with various decisions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, a number of agencies have reported that a fixed percentage of their regular budgets has been dedicated to South-South and triangular cooperation. For instance, the total regular budget for the period 2012-2013 for ILO was \$861.6 million, of which about \$1 million (0.12 per cent) was allocated to South-South and triangular cooperation.

The total extrabudgetary allocation for technical cooperation for the period 2012-2013 was \$498.3 million, of which \$13.8 million, or 2.78 per cent, was provided by Brazil, China, Kuwait, Panama and the Russian Federation and was allocated to South-South and triangular cooperation. There has been an upward trend in the budget allocation for South-South and triangular cooperation, and it has been increased to \$1.5 million in the programme and budget for the period 2014-2015.

48. As a result of the increased awareness at FAO of South-South cooperation as a programming approach, the amounts that are being specifically committed to such cooperation are increasing. In the last two years, the FAO-China Trust Fund has committed \$2 million to South-South cooperation, of which \$300,000 was spent on the Global South-South Development Expo held in Nairobi from 28 October to 1 November 2013. A second tranche of \$2 million, to start in 2014, was allocated. A number of other projects have a strong South-South cooperation component, but the amount spent on South-South cooperation has not yet been calculated.

49. While South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have yet to be mainstreamed into the programme and budget of WIPO, under its two-year project on South-South cooperation that was implemented during the period 2012-2013, the Organization spent approximately \$700,000.

50. Over the years, much of the structured financial support for South-South cooperation from within the United Nations system has come from UNDP and, in the wake of the recent financial crisis, UNDP has adopted a mechanism for the period 2014-2017 that will ensure stable and predictable funding of \$3.5 million per year (a total of \$14 million) for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The Office itself plans to raise an additional \$20 million (see SSC/18/3). It is expected that Member States will continue providing additional resources to the Office and that the UNDP Administrator, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, will explore means of expanding support using the experience gained from the management of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The Office will also have the resources made available by the Group of 77 and China through the UNDP-hosted Pérez Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. Launched in 1983, the Trust Fund makes an annual sum of \$213,000, which is the interest on its core capital of \$6 million, available for South-South projects.

Monitoring and evaluation

51. Many United Nations organizations and agencies are responding to calls to assess the impact of their support to South-South and triangular cooperation. UNDP took the lead and evaluated its contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation during the periods 1996-2007 and 2009-2011. The findings of the evaluations and the management responses formed the basis of a clear articulation of South-South cooperation in its strategic plan for 2014-2017 and the corporate strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation that is being developed. In 2012, FAO conducted an internal review of its 15 years of work, which brought to light areas for improvement in its South-South cooperation programme. The WIPO project entitled "Enhancing South-South cooperation on intellectual property and development among developing countries and least developed countries" was assessed by two external independent evaluators during the period January-March 2014. In their evaluation report, dated May 2014, they underlined the relevance of the project and the potential sustainability of results through the further

institutionalization and mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in all WIPO activities.

52. ILO conducted an independent midterm assessment of its partnership programme to prevent and eliminate child labour in the Americas, which has received about \$9 million in funding from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency for the period June 2009 to November 2015. The evaluation carried out in 2013 found that visits to exchange experiences between partner countries, when requested, were effective tools for building synergies and they provided opportunities to replicate successful activities.

C. United Nations support for subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation

53. Major support structure for South-South cooperation at the regional and subregional levels is provided by the five regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). As each Commission is closely focused on the developmental concerns of its member States, almost all of their activities, including regular meetings, involve South-South cooperation, which has been fully mainstreamed into their activities. Regional United Nations Development Group teams also have a key role to play in the promotion of South-South cooperation within and across regions.

54. In addition to the research and analysis functions of the regional commissions noted earlier, their primary role is to assist Member States in reaching common positions on major issues. In every region, there are huge economic and social disparities among countries and within societies. Consultations on the post-2015 agenda have shown that closing those gaps is a shared and high-priority concern in every region. Other strongly shared concerns are environmental threats and violent crime. Underlying those similarities in focus are significantly differentiated socioeconomic realities: one of the key messages from the regional commissions for the post-2015 agenda is that despite the many commonalities among the regions, their different circumstances call for a nuanced approach that addresses regional specificities.⁶

55. Each regional commission has been active in supporting regional integration, working in tandem with other similarly oriented organizations. In West Asia, for example, the ESCWA Regional Coordination Mechanism for Arab States is preparing a regional poverty mapping system. In Africa, the task of coordination is currently focused on implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development under the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. In the Asia-Pacific region, which has multiple regional and subregional organizations, the task is more complex and not easily summarized. Among the notable examples of regional South-South cooperation is a conference that was held in Dili in February 2013 on the theme "Development for all: Stop conflicts, develop States and

⁶ ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and ESCWA, *A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda* (E/ESCWA/OES/2013/2).

eradicate poverty". The conference provided an opportunity for the fragile and conflict-affected States in the region to voice their concerns, with the aim of finding a place for them in the post-2015 agenda. ECLAC has too varied an agenda to be easily summed up; illustrative of the difficulty is the number of subregional and regional mechanisms that it supports.⁷ The regional organization with the most universal regional membership is the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, with which ECLAC has developed a close supportive relationship. ECE has been fostering the Eurasian integration process through a number of technical cooperation activities in partnership with the Customs Union of the Eurasian Economic Community and the Common Economic Zone.

56. As noted above, United Nations agencies have been increasing support for regional and interregional South-South cooperation in a variety of ways, mainly in the course of their networked knowledge-sharing and on-the-ground technical assistance programmes. The India-Brazil-South Africa Facility for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation (the IBSA Fund) is a unique example of three middle-income countries from three separate regions working through the United Nations system — the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation — to help the least developed countries. To date, the IBSA Fund has provided \$27 million to fund projects in 13 partner countries. For example, Burundi used IBSA Fund support to establish and run a centre for HIV prevention, testing and treatment that has provided more than 39,000 people with annual consultations.

57. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All is rallying African leaders in Government and the private sector around concrete plans to concertedly address the issue of energy poverty in Africa, where close to 600 million people lack access to electricity and about 800,000 people die prematurely per year as a result of household air pollution. As one third of new oil and gas discoveries in the past five years have been in Africa, and 9 out of 12 such discoveries made in 2012 were made in East and West Africa, the Special Representative has proposed the creation of subregional collaborative frameworks through the establishment of an African energy leaders group within each regional economic community to champion the creation of regional public-private-partnership platforms with the purpose of attracting larger domestic and foreign investments into power generation, distribution and value addition, which in the case of oil and gas would go to the production of fertilizers, plastics and liquefied petroleum gas.⁸ The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation is facilitating the establishment of the South-South Energy Initiative, through which Southern countries will identify their needs and take decisions on how to resolve challenges that they face, focusing on the best use of energy resources in today's global context.

⁷ The Southern Common Market, the Latin American Integration Association, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Central American Integration System and the Andean Community.

⁸ Kandeh K. Yumkella, "Africa's new energy bonanza", *African Business*, No. 409 (June 2014).

IV. Inter-agency coordination of United Nations support to South-South cooperation

58. The implementation of decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, adopted at its eighteenth session, should go a long way to bolstering the mainstreaming and coordination of support to South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system. Inter-agency coordination in support of South-South cooperation happens at the global and regional levels, under the aegis of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the Regional Coordination Mechanism of each regional commission of the Economic and Social Council and United Nations Development Group regional teams. The actual coordination work of the Chief Executives Board takes place in the United Nations Development Group, which is chaired by the Administrator of UNDP, and is a process that is completely integral to the workings of the United Nations system.

59. Hence, in line with decisions of the High-level Committee at its eighteenth session and consistent with the recommendations on ensuring more systematic mainstreaming of South-South cooperation by the United Nations system contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and in the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Administrator of UNDP, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, has the following responsibilities: (a) establishing a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the Office; (b) giving the Office the opportunity to be represented more regularly in the strategic and coordination mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed; and (c) taking steps to ensure that the Office is adequately staffed, as appropriate, through the secondment of personnel from Governments and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and through the recruitment of Junior Professional Officers to give additional weight to the system-wide coordination function of the Office.

60. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation would also be strengthened by the speedy appointment of regional staff at the Professional level to the UNDP regional centres, where applicable, with additional measures to further integrate them into regional United Nations Development Group mechanisms. At the country level, the United Nations resident coordinators will be supported by thematic groups (including on South-South and triangular cooperation) or other inter-agency mechanisms so that they may play a leadership role in system-wide coordination. Those arrangements would be supported by workshops, training courses and other initiatives organized by the Office in conjunction with the Development Operations Coordination Office and the United Nations System Staff College to help staff to be effective in mainstreaming South-South cooperation.

61. Together, the above measures augment the commitment of UNDP to continue hosting and supporting the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, while providing it with the means and space to fulfil its role as coordinator of South-South cooperation across the United Nations system.

62. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has institutionalized and strengthened its multilateral South-South support framework, which comprises the Global South-South Development Academy, the Global South-South

Development Expo and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, which are increasingly utilized by United Nations entities. For instance, UNDP has contributed to the strengthening of the Academy through populating the expert rosters in the Web of Information for Development system in order to promote and utilize Southern expertise. The Academy provides access to more than 13,000 Southern experts, as well as information on over 300 successful experiences in all areas of the Millennium Development Goals.

63. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has leveraged the competencies of United Nations entities in the organization of its annual Global South-South Development Expo. Every year, more than 30 United Nations entities and other multilateral organizations take part in the Expo. For example, FAO participated in the 2012 and 2013 Expos, as well as in the first regional Expo, which was organized in Doha in 2013; UNEP has been an institutional partner and convener of the six solution exchange forums of the Expo since 2009 and it hosted the 2013 Expo at its headquarters in Nairobi; UNIDO has been actively involved in the Expo and it hosted the 2012 Expo in Vienna; ILO convened the 2010 Expo and organized two solution exchange forums at both the 2012 and 2013 Expos and it is currently working on a publication that brings together all the good practices that have been showcased in all past Expos; WIPO participated in the 2012 and 2013 Expos and has identified good practices to further South-South cooperation in its work; and UNDP continues to collaborate with the Office in organizing the Expos and in 2013 organized a solution exchange forum on poverty reduction and sustainability.

64. UNEP supports the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange through its South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism. In May 2013, UNIDO participated in the eighth South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange Convention, which was held as part of the first China International Technology Fair in Shanghai, China. It also organized a session on South-South industrial cooperation for enhancing food safety in China and chaired a round-table discussion on the theme "Institutionalizing South-South industrial cooperation: experiences and solutions from Southern centres". Similarly, during the 2013 Global South-South Development Expo, a partnership was established between the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange and WIPO GREEN, an interactive marketplace that promotes innovation and diffusion of green technologies. Since its establishment, the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange platform has expanded to 49 country centres in 39 countries, resulting in 6,132 projects listed, 1,869 projects matched and 857 projects carried out.

V. South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

65. In 2013, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination called upon its subsidiary bodies to jointly develop options on how the United Nations system could best support Member States as the international community strives to transition to a new, universal development agenda centred on sustainable development, including implementation at the country level (see E/2014/69, para. 18).

66. The credibility of the United Nations system will depend on the substance of the post-2015 agenda and on how effectively it is implemented. In addition to taking place in global forums, the substantive discussion on the future development agenda has to a considerable extent been a South-South process at the subregional and regional levels. The emerging contours of the agenda point to strong action to eradicate poverty and change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Discussions have highlighted the need for a coherent approach that will integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development within a single framework and for a set of universal goals that galvanize the full range of human aspirations and needs to ensure a life of dignity for all. Such commitment to human solidarity is consistent with the founding principles of South-South cooperation.

67. While most of the discussions on the post-2015 agenda have continued the focus of the Millennium Development Goals on such topics as extreme poverty, health and education, attention to the mobilization of resources needed to implement the future sustainable development goals at the national, regional and global levels is equally important.

68. Those shared development objectives and the means to attain them require the United Nations system to continue supporting inclusive and practical frameworks that would bolster the enhanced contribution of South-South cooperation in areas where it has proven effective, including South-South trade, investment, finance, infrastructure development, regional integration, technical and scientific cooperation, joint research and information-sharing.

69. The soaring interest in South-South cooperation among Member States and the enhanced coordination and coherence of United Nations system support to South-South cooperation over the review period underscore the important role that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and its institutional host, UNDP, must continue to play in order to maximize the development impact of that form of cooperation.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

70. Owing to the current surge in South-South relations, many of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system are responding to the decisions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, General Assembly resolutions and the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations with regard to South-South cooperation. They have incorporated South-South cooperation into their strategic plans, research agendas, programming instruments, budgets, performance indicators and monitoring and evaluation; such effort should continue with even greater vigour.

71. The need for coherent, effective coordination of such United Nations support to South-South cooperation is greater than ever and should be urgently addressed through the establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism and the full implementation of the other measures recently proposed by the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and to integrate its regional staff into the United Nations Development Group regional coordination mechanisms.

72. The mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in the operational work of the United Nations system, currently facilitated by the experimental implementation of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South

and triangular cooperation, should continue through the development of more guidance tools that are consistent with Member States' perspectives and the mandates of various organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Equally important is continued access by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and United Nations system South-South cooperation focal points to the UNDP global operations and country office network, United Nations country teams and the United Nations resident coordinator system, under the auspices of UNDP, as host of the Office and Chair of the United Nations Development Group.

73. Progress has been made on the implementation of a number of recommendations emanating from the Joint Inspection Unit report, as well as the 2012 evaluation of UNDP support to South-South cooperation. However, recommendations relating to the workings of the High-level Committee as the key governance structure for South-South cooperation in the United Nations system remain unfulfilled and they should be a priority, starting from consultations with Member States for guidance on updating the Committee's rules of procedure, which were established in 1980.

74. Interest in South-South cooperation continues to soar, driven by the fast-growing economies of the South. However, rates of economic growth have slowed, progress is uneven and the gap between North and South in average per capita income continues to be unacceptably wide. To ensure shared prosperity for all beyond 2015 requires intensified cooperation and the focusing of the support of the United Nations system on areas where South-South cooperation has proven effective, namely policy coordination, regional integration, interregional linkages and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge and technological innovations.

75. As a number of developing countries shift towards greater use of energy-efficient technologies,⁹ the United Nations system has the opportunity and responsibility to promote South-South transfers of renewable technologies and to forge more multi-stakeholder partnerships that channel public- and private-sector resources towards sustainable enterprises for rural and urban job creation and poverty eradication.

76. South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and their growth trajectory in a sustainable manner. That calls for increased partnerships involving Governments, civil society, academia, international financial institutions, foundations and the private sector. In Africa, where many countries are not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations system should accelerate its support to regional communities, enabling their increasing number of resource-rich member countries to build more public-private partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to attracting larger domestic and foreign investments into sustainable power generation, distribution and value addition, thus responding to calls in the Nairobi outcome document for the United Nations system to help to strengthen regional institutions for increased South-South cooperation.

⁹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Perspectives on Global Development 2014: Boosting Productivity to Meet the Middle-Income Challenge* (Paris, 2014).



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General and complete disarmament

Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 5 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/46, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". By operative paragraphs 6 to 8 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

(a) Called upon all Member States, international organizations and civil society to continue to enrich the discussions on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the United Nations bodies in which disarmament and peace and security were addressed, taking into account the report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and the proposals contained therein (A/68/514);

(b) Encouraged Member States, international organizations and civil society to take into account the report of the Open-ended Working Group and the proposals contained therein in the discussions in other forums in which humanitarian, health, human rights, environmental and development affairs were addressed;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including on steps that Member States had already taken to that end, and to submit a report on that subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Pursuant to the above request, on 20 February 2014, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Australia actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group in 2013 and supported General Assembly resolution 68/46. Australia concluded that there were useful outcomes from this process and noted that there was no firm decision in the resolution to reconvene the Open-ended Working Group under the present formula. Australia remains open to ideas and initiatives that could advance the agenda for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the future. Nevertheless, Australia considers that the process in 2013 reached a logical conclusion.

Austria

[Original: English]
[1 June 2014]

Austria supports any approach that promises results in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Austria was one of the co-initiators of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56. Austria perceives the work of the Open-ended Working Group and its results as a great success and supports the consensus report of the Open-ended Working Group (A/68/514), which offers a constructive starting point for building bridges and finding common solutions for the way forward.

Austria calls on the international community to undertake concrete work on the elements that are essential to complement the existing international legal framework, in order to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons, and to consider options for framing those elements into one or more instruments.

Austria supports all interim measures, be they of a practical, political or legal nature. They could be unilateral, bilateral and multilateral measures and include transparency and confidence-building. However, such measures cannot replace the required legal action at a multilateral level.

Nuclear disarmament is about creating human security for everyone around the globe. All States have a legitimate interest in multilateral nuclear disarmament. Austria calls for a broad approach to multilateral nuclear disarmament, engaging the whole membership of the United Nations, international and regional expertise, academia, parliamentarians and civil society at large. The substantive work by the Open-ended Working Group underscored again the added value of an inclusive and participatory approach.

Austria encourages the international community to re-establish its past focus on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons that underpin the collective efforts on nuclear disarmament, including in the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Austria firmly believes that this discussion contributes decisively to changing the discourse on nuclear disarmament, to include a human and cooperative security approach and to increase momentum. Austria has announced that it will host the third international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014 in Vienna.

Austria continues to promote and support education on disarmament and non-proliferation and high-level political events, such as the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013, for raising awareness of the importance of nuclear disarmament at all levels.

Austria encourages other States to engage all actors who can play a role in taking nuclear disarmament forward, including academia, parliamentarians and civil society at large.

Switzerland

[Original: English]
[1 June 2014]

The establishment of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons in 2013 demonstrated that the international community wished to see greater efforts in nuclear disarmament.

Discussions in the Open-ended Working Group emphasized that significant and steady progress is a collective responsibility of both non-nuclear-weapon States and States possessing nuclear weapons. In this regard, Switzerland refers to its activities in support of the implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Switzerland has also participated actively in the discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which have highlighted the imperative for moving more resolutely towards the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Switzerland was encouraged by the open, constructive, transparent and interactive debates in the Open-ended Working Group among Member States, which also benefited from the active participation of civil society.

Switzerland welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the report of the Open-ended Working Group. Several recommendations contained in that report merit further consideration.

Of particular value were the discussions on the various approaches to achieving nuclear disarmament. Those discussions emphasized that while there is no simple solution to dealing with nuclear disarmament, more ambitious and comprehensive steps will be required to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Switzerland would see merit in deepening discussions on the "building blocks approach", how such building blocks would fit in the broader framework of a world without nuclear weapons and how they could be built around the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that the report of the Open-ended Working Group was transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. This can contribute to ongoing efforts to enrich the nuclear disarmament discourse.

The Open-ended Working Group has proven a very valuable tool and there could be merit in re-establishing it in due time. Member States could consider reconvening the group in the aftermath of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to considering progress made and discussing potential ways forward. In case progress on nuclear disarmament frameworks remains elusive, the Group could contribute to building trust and to identifying ways forward.

Should the Open-ended Working Group be re-established, Switzerland hopes that it will contribute to achieving progress towards a world without nuclear weapons, including by further exploring concrete options for taking forward

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[3 July 2014]

Burkina Faso welcomes the significant progress achieved under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted in 1968, notably the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, compliance with standards for nuclear programmes and initiatives aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Burkina Faso endorses the need for all States to meet their obligations under the Treaty.

In conformity with the Treaty, Burkina Faso recognizes that every State has a right to access nuclear technology for peaceful uses. Under our policy of making peaceful use of nuclear energy for the purposes of development, with assistance from our partners, we have launched several projects that have had good results in the areas of health, agriculture, animal husbandry and the environment. We are convinced that the judicious use of nuclear energy can help to reduce poverty.

For Burkina Faso, it is important to continue strengthening cooperation among States in order to contain, in a consensual manner, further nuclear proliferation for military purposes.

Canada

[Original: English]
[12 June 2014]

Canada is deeply concerned by the devastating humanitarian consequences of a potential nuclear weapons detonation. It is this concern that underpins the work that Canada and the international community have done and must continue to do, to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

In this spirit, Canada continues to support a pragmatic and progressive step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament that halts the spread of nuclear weapons, draws down existing stockpiles and irreversibly eliminates them. The three core components of this approach are a universalized Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, coupled with full compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and verification to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons components and technology, a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that is fully in force for verifying the banning of all nuclear testing, and a fissile material cut-off treaty for verifying the banning of the production of fissile material. Such an approach provides the most practical and feasible path to realizing the commitments enshrined in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

While these steps remain the cornerstones of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, they need not, and should not, occur in isolation. They should be pursued simultaneously and further steps aimed at reducing the risk of use of nuclear weapons should be taken in parallel. With its partners in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Canada has advocated for a number

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multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, for instance through the development of additional legal instruments complementing the existing international legal framework. The active participation of all States possessing nuclear weapons is key in this regard.

Switzerland also hopes that the implementation of resolution 68/46 will have a positive impact on overcoming the stalemate in the disarmament machinery, in particular the Conference on Disarmament.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[1 June 2014]

Ukraine has always demonstrated its willingness to take forward multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament and has actively participated to that end, including in United Nations bodies that consider issues of disarmament, peace and security.

Ukraine has been and still remains a positive example of a country committed to the principle of having declared itself a non-nuclear State, despite the difficult circumstances in which it now finds itself owing to the aggressive policy being pursued by the Putin regime. The hypocritical stance of the Kremlin has resulted not only in the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine but also in the destabilization of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

In contrast to the policy adopted by Russia, which has failed to acknowledge its violation of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), Ukraine has consistently complied with its international obligations. In a joint statement issued by Ukraine and the United States of America at the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March 2014, Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby reinforcing its leadership in matters of nuclear security and non-proliferation.

In addition, Ukraine actively participates in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, established by General Assembly resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

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of such initiatives, notably as they relate to transparency on nuclear weapons and reducing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines.

Finally, it is important to recognize the security dimensions of nuclear weapons. Disarmament must be advanced in a way that does not jeopardize international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all. It does not and cannot take place in a vacuum and must be accompanied by strict adherence by all States parties to their non-proliferation obligations, including those under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As such, the continued non-compliance by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with these obligations undermines overall efforts to advance multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]

[4 July 2014]

Costa Rica is of the view that the report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons is an excellent basis on which to begin identifying commonalities.

The participation of the nuclear States in matters of nuclear disarmament is of fundamental importance. However, they do not have the only say in the matter, as the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is an issue that concerns all humankind.

Costa Rica believes that the "building blocks" proposal enjoyed broad support in the Working Group. This is a different concept from the "step-by-step" approach, because it requires only that the elements needed to achieve nuclear disarmament be identified. These building blocks are not dependent on one another and are not linked in a time sequence.

Several events that occurred in 2013 reflected the paralysis in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. In addition to the activities of the Working Group, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament also took place. The points discussed at that meeting could be taken forward in order to seek a consensus that would help identify starting points for the negotiations. In addition, the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons alerted the world to the immediate as well as the short-, medium- and long-term consequences of nuclear explosions.

As a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), we consider it appropriate to continue to encourage the creation of new nuclear-weapon-free zones, which could be modelled on the example set by Latin America and the Caribbean, where the process was completed not immediately upon the adoption of the Treaty but after all countries had been given time to complete their internal procedures.

Any subsequent negotiation process on nuclear disarmament must include full engagement with civil society. Its contribution is crucial, not just in terms of activism but also in terms of the knowledge offered by scientific and academic researchers.

Lastly, we support all the efforts being undertaken in the area of nuclear disarmament education and the direct involvement of youth groups.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2014]

Nuclear weapons are one of the greatest threats to the survival of humanity and life on our planet.

The vast majority of Member States of the United Nations, including Cuba, believe that the only realistic solution to that problem is the eradication and total prohibition of nuclear weapons through a convention on nuclear disarmament that establishes legally binding measures to eliminate and completely ban such weapons within a given time frame.

Cuba attaches great importance to the efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and is committed to taking forward the negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument for the general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Until the primary goal of nuclear disarmament is achieved, an agreement must be urgently adopted through which nuclear-weapon States give unequivocal and legally binding assurances not to use or threaten to use such weapons.

Cuba has contributed to the work of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56 with a mandate to develop proposals to take forward multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

As a contribution to the efforts of the Working Group, Cuba submitted a working paper in June 2013 containing 20 proposed practical actions to make speedy progress towards the objective of nuclear disarmament.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has submitted a proposal establishing a specific timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons until they are totally eliminated and prohibited by 2025, which should be considered by the international community.

Cuba underscores the importance of the historic convening, on 26 September 2013, of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the first meeting of its kind in the history of the United Nations and a concrete step on the necessary path towards nuclear disarmament. That date has been enshrined in history as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

The failure to implement the agreement reached at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the convening in 2012 of an international conference for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is troubling and unjustifiable. Cuba urges that such a conference should be convened in 2014 without further delay.

Cuba regrets that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in May 2014, concluded without adopting substantive

recommendations. Cuba submitted an updated proposed action plan on nuclear disarmament for adoption at the 2015 Review Conference.

Denmark

[Original: English]

[29 May 2014]

Denmark shares the growing frustration generated by the absence, for more than a decade, of concrete outcomes of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in general and of the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in particular.

In reaction to this, attempts have been made to organize collective deliberations in temporary formations outside the Conference, such as the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56) and the Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on possible aspects which could contribute to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (resolution 67/53). Denmark welcomes and supports those efforts to seek further inspiration and new impetus.

The work of the Open-ended Working Group, completed in August 2013, proved to be positive and productive. Member States engaged in open-minded and constructive dialogue. Positions and concepts were presented in new and less confrontational forms. A report presenting different and new approaches to nuclear disarmament voiced during the sessions was agreed by consensus and forwarded to the General Assembly.

One such new approach is contained in the working paper presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by 20 countries, including Denmark, and entitled "Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons" (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.23). It endeavours to overcome the gap between the so-called "step-by-step" and "comprehensive" approaches and merits further consideration.

The Conference on Disarmament failed again in 2013 to adopt a programme of work. No progress has been seen so far in 2014. In this light, convening a second Open-ended Working Group, with a view to deepening and broadening the deliberations of 2013 and building bridges across differences could be considered. It should possibly meet after the Group of Governmental Experts has terminated its work and reported to the General Assembly. All nuclear-weapon States should be encouraged to participate.

At the same time, while recalling the right of all States to participate in disarmament negotiations, deliberations should be intensified as to how the work of the Conference on Disarmament might be reinvigorated. Changing working methods and restructuring the format of the Conference, including proposals on expansion or rotation of the membership and a stronger role for representatives of civil society and international organizations, could be a way forward.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2014]

I have the honour to inform you, with respect to your note of 20 February 2014 (No. ODA/29-2014/MNDN) concerning General Assembly resolution 68/46 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations" adopted on 5 December 2013, that the Armed Forces of El Salvador recognize the importance of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the region and around the world, strengthening ties and building trust and security among countries in order to unify our efforts to reduce nuclear arsenals, and developing strategies and making commitments that will contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in order to promote global peace and security.

The Republic of El Salvador recognizes the right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and therefore considers it necessary to encourage States that possess nuclear arms to provide security assurances.

In this context, the Republic of El Salvador has ratified various treaties and conventions in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and therefore supports the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety developed by the Director General of IAEA, particularly with respect to the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response, the review and strengthening of IAEA safety standards and their implementation and the assessment of vulnerabilities in the safety of nuclear power plants.

France

[Original: French]
[30 May 2014]

France is fully committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to pursuing efforts that will lead to the achievement of that goal in a manner that promotes international stability. To that end, France takes a holistic, progressive and practical approach.

In the multilateral context, France has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It consistently advocates in international forums for an early start to negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, pursuant to document CD/1299 and the mandate established therein. The conclusion of such a treaty represents, in its view, the next logical step in nuclear disarmament.

With regard to ways of taking forward multilateral negotiations and in particular the appropriate forums, the position of France remains the same as that set out in the explanation of its vote on resolution 68/46.

In particular, France is of the view that the General Assembly has competent and useful forums in which to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, along with the bodies mentioned at the first special session of the General Assembly

on disarmament in 1978 (the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament).

For that reason, France sought in 2012 to alert the General Assembly to the likely consequences of certain initiatives that had created parallel forums. With regard to the establishment of an open-ended working group, France had expressed concerns as to the coherence between that initiative and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its 2010 action plan, which was adopted by consensus. The final report of the Open-ended Working Group, some elements of which France highlighted in the aforementioned explanation of its vote, showed that those concerns were well founded. More generally, those initiatives have in effect resulted only in reopening the debate on the "step-by-step" approach and on priorities for negotiation.

In this context, France sees the commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material, rather than further work by the Open-ended Working Group, as the best means of advancing nuclear disarmament.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia welcomes resolution 67/56 by which the General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

Georgia shares the goal of a peaceful and secure world free from nuclear weapons. There are major challenges still prevalent in the fields of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control.

The Conference on Disarmament should exercise a significantly greater influence and produce a larger impact in the field of its competence, especially in view of the current international security environment. This is a world of new challenges but also of new opportunities. The Conference on Disarmament, as a single multilateral disarmament forum, has the potential to address the challenges that confront us. There are sufficient instruments at our disposal, both in dealing with the threats and in helping to realize the opportunities.

To match this objective, we must spare no effort in order to promote revitalization of this unique forum for negotiations, which has undeniably played a crucial role in elaborating several major international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

The issue of the effectiveness and efficiency of the present set of international treaties and agreements in the field has been raised quite frequently. Some States have expressed the view that several of the existing mechanisms might not be perfect and that new ones might be elaborated if required.

Georgia emphasizes that while negotiating the new instruments aimed at addressing the emerging security requirements, the international community should pay special attention to making the already agreed mechanisms truly universal.

Obviously, non-compliance of some States in certain cases can irreversibly erode the current security system and produce undesired large-scale negative implications. Any discussion of this issue can only be realistic and effective if all States fulfil in good faith the commitments and obligations they have already undertaken, which derive from existing documents and serve as the building blocks of the existing security architecture. Non-compliance with any one of them robs part of the solidity from the current security system.

In order to move forward in nuclear disarmament and elimination of the risk of catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons, Georgia suggests focusing on:

- Universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Universalization of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment
- Universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[20 March 2014]

Iraq supports the principle of multilateralism in nuclear disarmament negotiations as a fundamental and important element for ensuring transparency and mutual trust. Iraq encourages all States to participate in such negotiations, which give credibility to the international community, as it works to fulfil its collective responsibility for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in view of their highly destructive nature. It would be difficult to preserve international peace and security in the absence of shared, practical and transparent solutions, which should be developed through multilateral negotiations leading to the conclusion and implementation of collective agreements. Nor can disarmament and arms control be realized through individual or unilateral efforts. Rather, those goals require multilateral communication and negotiating forums in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Iraq is therefore convinced that the United Nations must fulfil its fundamental and important role by promoting multilateralism, both in principle and in practice, through negotiations on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

Iraq attaches particular importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament treaties. Intensified efforts are required in order to ensure that the Conference can emerge from its current stagnation and once again fulfil its mandated role.

Japan

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

In accordance with operative paragraph 8 of resolution 68/46 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", adopted by the General Assembly in December 2013, Japan submits its views to the Secretary-General on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

As Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida stated in his speech in Nagasaki in January 2014 on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it is essential to begin with a clear understanding of the humanitarian aspect of nuclear weapons and to steadily build up realistic and practical efforts based on an objective assessment of the reality of the immediate nuclear risks in a severe security environment. Although this may seem to be a detour towards "a world free of nuclear weapons", Japan believes that it is actually the shortest path.

Japan submitted a working paper entitled "Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons" to the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The international community should focus not on differences but on common ground by identifying concrete and practical building blocks for the shared goal. The building blocks approach foresees the possibility of parallel and simultaneous steps and they can be multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral or unilateral.

Regarding multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, which constitute part of a number of building blocks, Japan considers a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices as the next logical step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Japan supports the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on this issue, established in accordance with resolution 67/53, and looks forward to their work and outcome, which can significantly contribute to future negotiations of this treaty.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

Libya affirms its support for General Assembly resolution 68/46. The nuclear-weapon States must prove their good intentions by setting out an internationally verifiable timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons and conduct negotiations in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

It believes that the delay in taking practical steps towards serious and constructive negotiations on nuclear disarmament increases the desire of other States to possess nuclear weapons, under the pretexts of sovereignty and national security.

Many States consider nuclear weapons to be a deterrent and seek to retain or acquire them. Such weapons, however, are in fact a threat and grave danger to any

party that possesses them. That is why Libya abandoned its military nuclear programme and signed several relevant instruments, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and an additional protocol on comprehensive safeguards.

Libya calls on the Russian Federation and the United States of America to follow up on the practical and positive steps that they took in 2009 to reduce their nuclear weapon arsenals. It also calls on them to bring the other nuclear-weapons States into this process and to set out an internationally verifiable timetable for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The international community must take advantage of the international political climate, which has become very conducive and encouraging, and start more serious multilateral negotiations in the spirit of a genuine desire to achieve international peace and security and total nuclear disarmament.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Malaysia recognises that, in recent years, there have been initiatives outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Conference on Disarmament towards achieving the goal of non-proliferation. While Malaysia has been supportive of such initiatives, we are disappointed that there has not been much progress at the multilateral level in the efforts towards nuclear disarmament. We are of the view that there is still much distrust among the nuclear-armed States. We are further of the view that there is no real political commitment, especially from the nuclear-armed States, to change the status quo. This is evident from the fact that nuclear disarmament has not been pursued with urgency, whether inside or outside the framework of the Treaty. Malaysia calls on those States to show leadership on the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Given the distrust among the nuclear-armed States and the lack of political commitment, Malaysia is of the view that the goal of achieving complete and comprehensive nuclear disarmament is unlikely. This is despite the fact that the international community has in the past successfully eliminated a whole class of weapon systems through the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Malaysia is of the view that the best way to achieve complete and comprehensive nuclear disarmament would be to commence negotiations on a legally binding instrument or a framework of instruments to prohibit and ban nuclear weapons altogether. During the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, Costa Rica and Malaysia submitted a proposal on a model nuclear weapons convention (A/62/650). The document was also submitted as a working paper during the session of the Open-ended Working Group in 2013 to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

The model convention sets forth legal, technical and political elements for the establishment and maintenance of a nuclear weapons-free world. It could be used in

its entirety or selected segments could be used as a basis for negotiations on a legally binding instrument or a framework of instruments to prohibit and ban nuclear weapons.

Malaysia attaches great importance to the narrative regarding the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. That initiative has clearly garnered support from the majority of countries. We see this approach as one which should be at the core of discussions on nuclear disarmament. Malaysia hopes that this initiative will translate into a diplomatic process towards finalizing a legally binding instrument to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

[3 June 2014]

Mexico was one of the States that sponsored General Assembly resolutions 67/56 and 68/46, both of which bear the title "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". The purpose of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to the first of the two resolutions was to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of the scourge of nuclear weapons, in the light of the failure of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil its mandate for more than 15 years.

The work of the Open-ended Working Group encouraged a proactive and rich debate of a kind that had not been seen for a long time in the Conference on Disarmament, or even in other forums that deal with the matter, held in an open, constructive, inclusive and transparent manner, bringing together States members and non-members of the Conference, international organizations, civil society, academics and academic researchers. In addition, the Group was chaired by Costa Rica, a non-member of the Conference on Disarmament, which has no armed forces and has championed the achievement of peace in various domains.

The final report of the Working Group (A/68/514), adopted without a vote, proposes various approaches on how to take forward such negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and on what their outcomes should be.

In addition, Mexico believes that it is important to take into account the lessons learned from other recent negotiation processes that led to the adoption of legally binding instruments, some of which banned particular categories of weapons. Those lessons include:

- The establishment of ties among States, international organizations and civil society.
- The setting of clear goals for the end of negotiations, rather than preconditions for them to begin.
- An understanding of the reasoning underlying the objectives being negotiated. In this regard, the humanitarian impact of weapons, rather than considerations of their military usefulness, has been the driving force behind such processes.

- Discussions based on factual, technical and scientific elements that give credibility to arguments against nuclear weapons.
- The establishment of goals by the participants without preconceived ideas regarding the outcomes of the negotiations, regardless of the type and style of negotiation adopted.
- Inclusive and informal consultations to establish the terms of reference of negotiations before they begin instead of expecting them to be defined in situ.

Netherlands

[Original: English]

[29 May 2014]

The Netherlands is of the opinion that the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons proved to be a valuable exercise, as it presented the international community with the opportunity to discuss nuclear disarmament in a format that allowed the participation of all Member States. Both States and civil society participated in and contributed to the informal discussions on an equal footing. With regard to the content of the discussions, the Open-ended Working Group set a high standard through focusing on common grounds, rather than emphasizing differences. The Netherlands participated in the Group as Co-Chair for the session on verification and transparency and actively contributed to the debate with regular interventions. As a “friend of the chair”, the Netherlands was also involved in the drafting of the final report. All these positive elements made it possible to meaningfully conclude the work of the Group with a consensus report.

The question is whether a follow-up to the work of the Open-ended Working Group would bring the international community further along the path towards nuclear disarmament negotiations. The Netherlands is of the opinion that the success of the Group can, for an important part, be attributed to the circumstances in which its work took place. Many States had expressed frustration about the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament and the pace of nuclear disarmament. The Open-ended Working Group channelled those frustrations and paved the way for other initiatives such as the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In addition, the Netherlands is of the opinion that for discussions of nuclear disarmament the States possessing nuclear weapons should be present. Of those States only India and Pakistan participated in the Open-ended Working Group.

However, the idea of “building blocks” that came up during the work of the Open-ended Working Group could be explored further. Participating States were in wide agreement that, regardless of the preferred approach (step-by-step or a nuclear weapons convention), it was necessary to identify the various elements or building blocks that are needed to reach a nuclear-weapon-free world. To this end, the Netherlands co-sponsored the working paper proposed by Japan on building blocks, which was submitted to the Open-ended Working Group. That paper was also submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

and to the Conference on Disarmament and is therefore taken up by other disarmament forums.

Despite the earlier contribution of the Open-ended Working Group, the Netherlands is not convinced that a follow-up to it would be the most fruitful way forward.

New Zealand

[Original: English]

[29 May 2014]

New Zealand valued the opportunity provided by the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and of examining in depth not only issues related to the process, but also the substance of nuclear disarmament, with a view to overcoming the stalemate in the disarmament machinery.

New Zealand joined with the New Agenda Coalition in submitting views to the Open-ended Working Group on how to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The essence of the Coalition submission was that future work on nuclear disarmament needed to be guided and underpinned by a clear, legally binding and multilateral commitment to nuclear disarmament, backed by clearly defined benchmarks and timelines. The Coalition expanded on this position in its working paper on article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.18).

In its national capacity, New Zealand has also strongly supported all avenues which promise to advance nuclear disarmament. New Zealand delivered a statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2013 on behalf of 125 States on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which followed similar statements delivered to the General Assembly in 2012 and the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. It actively participated in the Oslo and Nayarit conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and supports the initiative of Austria to organize a third conference in December 2014. It supported the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament in September 2013 and its follow-up resolution.

During the work of the Open-ended Working Group, New Zealand moderated a panel discussion on international law concerning the use of nuclear weapons and remains of the view that further work on this question would be valuable, for example, through conducting a study on the recent evolution of international law in areas relevant to nuclear weapons, including international humanitarian law, international criminal law, human rights law and environmental law.

New Zealand emphasizes that all future work on nuclear disarmament should take into account the views and participation of all States and other relevant actors, such as civil society, parliamentarians and international organizations and must have humanitarian considerations at its core. The Open-ended Working Group provided

an excellent forum for doing this and, absent progress in other bodies on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, should be reconvened.

Norway

[Original: English]

[30 May 2014]

The Permanent Mission of Norway has the honour to present the Norwegian views on the issues outlined in operative paragraph 8 in General Assembly resolution 68/46.

On 4 and 5 March 2013, Norway organized a conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons detonations. The aim was to facilitate a facts-based discussion to examine aspects of nuclear weapon detonations that have not been on the nuclear disarmament agenda for a number of years. The conference contributed to a renewed and a broader awareness of and interest in nuclear disarmament.

As General Assembly resolution 67/56 has been implemented and the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons has fulfilled its mandate, we see no benefit in continuing this exercise, but that one should rather focus on contributing to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and reinforcing the implementation of the Treaty, including the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. Norway intends to contribute actively to a successful outcome of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]

[23 May 2014]

As a member of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama took part in the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations was a sponsor of the joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and of the draft resolutions on transparency in armaments and on united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, it collaborated on resolutions concerning the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the amendments thereto.

Panama has ratified and incorporated into its domestic legislation, inter alia, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. Panama voted in favour of the resolution on the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.